

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Applicants appreciate the acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in claims 3-12, 15-22, 25-32, 35-44 and 47-54.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 13, 14, 23, 24, 26-28, 34, 36-38, 45, 46 and 48 have been amended, and claims 3, 15, 25, 35 and 47 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer for filing in a continuation application. Thus, claims 1, 2, 4-14, 16-24, 26-34, 36-46 and 48-54 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed June 22, 2005 claims 1, 13, 23, 33 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,266,014 to Fattouche et al. (hereinafter, "Fattouche"). Claims 2, 14, 24, 34 and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fattouche in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,310,576 to Johnson (hereinafter, "Johnson"). Claims 3-12, 15-22, 25-32, 35-44 and 47-54 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the instant amendment, claims 3, 15, 25, 35 and 47 have been canceled, and the allowable subject matter thereof has been incorporated into claims 1 and 2, claims 13 and 14, claims 23 and 24, claims 33 and 34, and claims 45 and 46, respectively. Thus, claims 1, 2, 13, 14, 23, 24, 33, 34, 45 and 46 are in condition for allowance. Each of claims 4-12, 16-22, 26-32, 36-44, and 48-54 depends from one of allowable claims 1,

2, 13, 14, 23, 24, 33, 34, 45 and 46. As such, claims 4-12, 16-22, 26-32, 36-44, and 48-54 are allowable for the same reasons as claims 1, 2, 13, 14, 23, 24, 33, 34, 45 and 46, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 2, 4-14, 16-24, 26-34, 36-46 and 48-54 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, 4-14, 16-24, 26-34, 36-46 and 48-54 patentability distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing client matter number **107156-00099**.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time (One Month)